

**UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT  
EASTERN DISTRICT OF CALIFORNIA**

JOHN MOORE,

Plaintiff,

v.

COVENANT LIVING WEST,

Defendant.

No. 1:21-cv-01303-JLT-SKO

ORDER CONTINUING STAY

JOHN MOORE,

Plaintiff,

v.

COVENANT LIVING WEST,

Defendant.

No. 1:21-cv-01393-JLT-SKO

ORDER CONTINUING STAY

DALLENE ROCCARO, et al.,

Plaintiffs,

v.

COVENANT LIVING COMMUNITIES &  
SERVICES,

Defendant.

No. 1:21-cv-01416-JLT-SAB

ORDER CONTINUING STAY

1 The above-captioned matters are state-law actions concerning nursing homes' responses  
 2 to the coronavirus pandemic. They were initially filed in California state courts and were  
 3 subsequently removed to this U.S. District Court based on federal-question jurisdiction. The  
 4 notice of removal in each case asserts, among other things, that the state law causes of action are  
 5 preempted by the Public Readiness and Emergency Preparedness Act, 42 U.S.C. §§ 247d-6d and  
 6 247d-6e (2006) (the "PREP Act"). Plaintiffs in each action have filed a motion to remand.

7 On October 21, 2021, the Ninth Circuit heard oral argument in *Saldana v. Glenhaven*  
 8 *Healthcare LLC*, No. 20-56194. According to the opening brief, the issues presented to the Ninth  
 9 Circuit for review in *Saldana* were as follows:

- 10 1. Did the district court err in its interpretation and application of  
 11 the federal officer removal statute, 28 U.S.C. § 1442(a)(1), by  
 12 failing to recognize that Defendants' response to the pandemic was  
 13 at the specific direction of, and to assist, the federal government,  
 such that Defendants were "acting under" a federal officer as  
 contemplated by § 1442(a)(1) and *Watson v. Philip Morris Cos.*,  
 551 U.S. 142 (2007)?
- 14 2. Did the district court err in its interpretation of the PREP Act's  
 complete preemptive effect by failing to construe the various  
 components of the PREP Act together?
- 15 3. Did the district court err in failing to recognize that Plaintiffs'  
 16 state claims raise embedded federal issues pursuant to *Grable &*  
 17 *Sons Metal Products v. Darue Engineering & Manufacturing*, 545  
 U.S. 308 (2005) that compel granting federal jurisdiction because of  
 18 the need for uniformity in the interpretation and enforcement of  
 federal law in responding to the COVID-19 pandemic, which has  
 affected every state in the country?

19 *Saldana*, Doc. No. 16, at 17–18. The parties in the above-captioned matters have briefed similar  
 20 issues. (See *Moore*, No. 1:21-cv-01303-JLT-SKO, Doc. 15; *Moore*, No. 1:21-cv-01393-JLT-  
 21 SKO, Doc. 11; *Roccaro*, 1:21-cv-01416-JLT-SAB, Doc. 1.)

22 On December 15, 2021, the Court stayed these matters pending resolution of *Saldana*, and  
 23 ordered the parties, within fourteen days following the entry of the mandate by the Ninth Circuit  
 24 in *Saldana*, to file either a stipulation regarding the lifting of the stay and setting forth appropriate  
 25 deadlines or a joint status report indicating their respective positions on further proceedings.

26 The mandate issued in *Saldana* on April 26, 2022, but the parties failed to abide by the  
 27 above filing deadline. Accordingly, the Court entered a minute order in each case ordering the  
 28 parties to show cause why the case should not be remanded in light of *Saldana*. In the above-

captioned cases, Defendants responded indicating their preference to continue the stay while they pursued further appeals. A subsequent set of filings indicates that the parties in *Saldana* are in the process of briefing a petition for a writ of certiorari with the United States Supreme Court. It is anticipated that the petition will be ready for resolution some time in December 2022.

Accordingly, the Court finds it appropriate to stay this matter until the Supreme Court either denies the petition or rules on the merits of the case. Thus, the Court **ORDERS**:

1. **Within 14 days** of the Supreme Court's action denying the petition or ruling on its merits, the parties are directed to file a stipulation regarding lifting the stay, remanding the case or setting forth appropriate deadlines, or a joint status report indicating their respective positions on further proceedings. **Failure to comply will result in the imposition of sanctions including monetary sanctions, dismissal for failure to prosecute or striking the answer and entering default.**

IT IS SO ORDERED.

Dated: **October 4, 2022**

  
UNITED STATES DISTRICT JUDGE